979-80/49

[H.A.S.C. No. 96-49]

FULL COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

OF

H.R. 7626

TO AMEND TITLE 37, UNITED STATES CODE, TO IMPROVE CERTAIN SPECIAL PAYS AND ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NINETY-SIXTH CONGRESS
SECOND SESSION

JUNE 24, 1980

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NINETY-SIXTH CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, D.C., Tuesday, June 24, 1980.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 11:45 a.m., in room 2118, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Melvin Price (chairman of the committee) presiding.

The CHAIRMAN. Perhaps while we are here we can take up the report from Mr. Nichols' subcommittee, and then we'll go right back to you, Mr. Bailey.

Mr. Nichols.

REPORT OF HON. BILL NICHOLS, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM ALABAMA, CHAIRMAN, MILITARY COMPENSATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. NICHOLS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I bring to the committee, today, a report on additional military compensation initiatives, above and beyond those contained in the Nunn-Warner amendment.

The President announced the so-called fair benefits package when he visited the *Nimitz* recently. The Nunn-Warner amendment reflected a large portion of the fair benefits package; the bill we are considering today (H.R. 7626) represents the bulk of the remainder of that package.

The President has recommended, and the subcommittee has accepted, the following modifications in H.R. 7626:

	Million
Family separation allowance for E–4 and below ($30 per month)	$13.1
Trailer allowance (increase in reimbursement for moving trailer)	8.0
Basic allowance for quarters (BAQ) for Navy personnel who are displaced from quarters on board their ship	10.0
Increase in maximum enlistment bonus ($3,000 to $5,000) and in maximum reenlistment bonus ($15,000 to $20,000) and permanent authority	10.0
Authorization of optional BAQ for single E–7's and above	34.0
Continuation bonus for pilots (up to 4 months' basic pay per year of extension)	20.0
Increase in per diem for TDY ($35 to $50 standard rate; $50 to $75 in high-cost area)	102.0

In addition, the subcommittee added four other items to the bill it reported:

	Million
Authority for a new special pay for enlisted personnel in certain specialties extending overseas	—$3.5
Extending authority for the platoon leaders class subsistence allowance ($100 per month)	1.0
Excluding trailer pads from the definition of quarters (places in statute existing policy)	0.0
Increased pay for enlisted submariners and nuclear qualified personnel	6.0

I might point out to the committee that the Senate Armed Services Committee has amended the defense authorization bill for fiscal year 1981 with several of these items: Family separation allowance,

trailer allowance, increases in enlistment/reenlistment bonuses, increased per diem for TDY, and the platoon leaders class subsistence allowance.

Although we will be limited with regard to what we can do in conference with respect to the provisions in the Senate Defense authorization bill, the bill we report to the committee can provide a vehicle to establish a position toward those provisions.

Since many of these proposals have been around for some time, I would like to touch briefly on only two of these items: The continuation bonus for pilots and the increase in pay for submariners and nuclear qualified personnel.

The provision creating a continuation bonus for pilots would authorize a lump sum payment of up to 4 months' basic pay for each year an aviator extends on active duty. It would be applicable to personnel with between 6 and 18 years of service.

I originally had some reservations concerning this provision. It will undoubtedly be useful in addressing the pilot shortage being experienced today. But to be fully effective, it must be implemented in a way that will avoid problems that may cause extreme discontent among the pilots.

For example, the Air Force and the Army do not presently intend to use the bonus; this would cause discontent between pilots in the individual services and eventually lead to pressures to extend the bonus to all services. Further, providing the bonus (or larger bonuses) to some categories of pilots where significant shortages exist and not to others where manning is near requirements could cause discontent among pilots in the same service. In addition, senior pilots could potentially receive less total compensation than those who serve under them. Finally, throughout their career, pilots serve in rated as well as nonrated duties. During the onrated portions of their careers, pilots could perceive inequities in the implementation of the bonus system among pilots; and nonrated personnel may perceive inequities between themselves and pilots alongside whom they serve.

The subcommittee recommends strong report language expressing the committee's intent that the bonus be implemented in such a way as to minimize pay inversions between junior and senior pilots and between nonrated and rated personnel serving in nonrated positions. Because eligibility for the bonus would be limited to those with less than 19 years of service, the report language should emphasize the committee's desire that the bonus be phased down as regular military compensation increases with years of service so as to preclude significant pay cuts for senior personnel.

The subcommittee, also, addressed an area that had not been focussed on by either the Nunn-Warner amendments or the fair benefits package, namely the submarine community and nuclear qualified personnel. The subcommittee asked for data from the Navy and found preliminary indications of some significant problems.

For example, career retention rates among enlisted submariners are declining (70 percent) in 1976 to 53 percent in 1979 for members in the 11 to 14 years of service group). Shortages of up to 50 percent exist in some enlisted ratings for members with 10 to 20 years of service.

For officers, substantial shortages exist in key seagoing positions. This results in officers spending 15 of their first 19 years in shipboard billets.

The subcommittee proposes an interim solution that will stabilize these trends and intends to consider the problem in more depth as time permits.

For the enlisted community, the subcommittee recommended a 25-percent increase in submarine pay; this is the same increase provided enlisted flight crew members under the Nunn-Warner amendment. This would be in addition to other initiatives that would affect this community. The Nunn-Warner amendment would extend eligibility for the selective reenlistment bonus from 10 to 14 years of service and would increase the rates of sea pay. Another provision of the package reported today is to increase the maximum selective reenlistment bonus from $15,000 to $20,000. This modification would affect nuclear qualified petty officers in particular.

For nuclear qualified officers, the nuclear accession bonus would be increased from $3,000 to $5,000; the nuclear continuation bonus payable for a 4-year extension following initial obligation would be increased from $20,000 to $25,000 (a 25-percent increase) and the annual nuclear career incentive pay provided after 10 years of service would be increased from $4,000 to $5,000 per year (a 25-percent increase). In addition, the authority for these bonuses expires on September 30, 1981; this authority would be extended to September 30, 1983.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that this package forms an excellent complement to the other actions that are being taken and I move the committee to favorably report H.R. 7626.

[H.R. 7626 is as follows:]

96TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7626

To amend title 37, United States Code, to improve certain special pays and allowances for members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 19, 1980

Mr. NICHOLS (for himself, Mr. MITCHELL of New York, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. ASPIN, Mr. EMERY, Mr. DAVIS of South Carolina, Mrs. BYRON, Mr. COURTER, Mr. MAVROULES, Mr. WYATT, Mr. EVANS of the Virgin Islands, Mr. LEACH of Louisiana, Mr. DOUGHERTY, and Mr. HUTTO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Service.

A BILL

To amend title 37, United States Code, to improve certain special pays and allowances for members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SHORT TITLE

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the "Military Pay and Allowances Benefits Act of 1980".

ENLISTMENT AND REENLISTMENT BONUSES

SEC. 2. (a)(1) Subsection (a) of section 308 of title 37, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking out "ten years" in clause (A) and inserting in lieu thereof "fourteen years";

(B) by striking out "$15,000" and inserting in lieu thereof "$20,000"; and

(C) by striking out "twelve years" and inserting in lieu thereof "sixteen years".

(2) Subsection (f) of such section is repealed.

(b)(1) Subsection (a) of section 308a of such title is amended—

(A) by striking out "for a period of at least four years";

(B) by striking out "to a total of at least four years"; and

(C) by striking out "$3,000" and inserting in lieu thereof "$5,000".

(2) Subsection (c) of such section is repealed.

CONTINUATION BONUS FOR AVIATION CAREER OFFICERS

SEC. 3. (a) Chapter 5 of title 37, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 301a the following new section:

READEX FICHE

"§ 301b. Special pay: aviation career officers extending period of active duty

"(a) Under regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, or by the Secretary of Transportation with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy, an officer of an armed force who—

"(1) is entitled to aviation career incentive pay under section 301a of this title;

"(2) is in a pay grade below the pay grade of O–7;

"(3) is qualified to perform operational flying duty (as such term is defined in clause (6) of section 301a(a) of this title);

"(4) has at least six but less than eighteen years of aviation service as an officer;

"(5) executes a written agreement to remain on active duty in aviation service for at least one year; and

"(6) is in an aviation specialty designated as critical;

may, upon the acceptance of the written agreement by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of Transportation, as applicable, be paid an amount not to exceed the product of four months' basic pay (computed at the rate applicable to the officer at the time the agreement is executed) and the

number of years (or the monthly fractions thereof) that the officer agrees to remain on active duty under the agreement. An agreement under this section may not extend beyond the date on which the officer would complete nineteen years of aviation service. Upon acceptance of the agreement by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of Transportation, as appropriate, and subject to subsection (d) of this section, the total amount payable becomes fixed and may be paid in either a lump sum or in installments.

"(b) Special pay under this section is in addition to any other pay and allowances to which an officer is entitled.

"(c) For the purpose of this section, the term 'aviation service' means the service performed by an officer holding an aeronautical rating or designation (except a flight surgeon or other medical officer) under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of Transportation. The years of aviation service are computed beginning with the effective date of the initial order to perform aviation service.

"(d)(1) Under regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary of Defense or by the Secretary of Transportation, as appropriate, and subject to such exemptions as may be prescribed in those regulations, refunds may be required, on a pro rata basis, of sums paid under this section if the officer who has received the payment fails to complete the total period of active duty in aviation service specified in the

agreement. Nothing in this section shall alter or modify the obligation of a regular officer to perform active service at the pleasure of the President. Completion of the agreed-upon period of active duty in aviation service under this section shall not obligate the President to accept a resignation submitted by a regular officer.

"(2) Subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, an obligation to reimburse the United States imposed under paragraph (1) of this subsection is for all purposes a debt owed to the United States. The United States may institute and prosecute legal proceedings in any State or Federal court to recover a debt owed under paragraph (1) of this subsection against the officer who signed the agreement.

"(3) Under regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary of Defense or by the Secretary of Transportation, as appropriate, a refund required under paragraph (1) of this subsection may be waived in whole or in part if recovery of the amount owed would be against equity and good conscience or contrary to the best interests of the United States.

"(4) A discharge in bankruptcy under title 11 that is entered less than five years after the termination of an agreement under this section does not release the member signing such agreement from an obligation under paragraph (1) of this subsection to satisfy the debt. This paragraph applies to

any proceeding in bankruptcy which begins after September 30, 1980.".

(b) The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 301a the following new item:

"301b. Special pay: aviation career officers extending period of active duty.".

SPECIAL PAY FOR SUBMARINE OR NUCLEAR DUTY

SEC. 4. (a)(1) Subsection (a) of section 312 of title 37, United States Code, is amended by striking out "$5,000" and "$4,000" and inserting in lieu thereof "$6,250" and "$5,000", respectively.

(2) Subsection (e) of such section is amended by striking out "September 30, 1981" and inserting in lieu thereof "September 30, 1983".

(b)(1) Subsection (a) of section 312b of such title is amended by striking out "$3,000" and inserting in lieu thereof "$5,000".

(2) Subsection (c) of such section is amended by striking out "September 30, 1981" and inserting in lieu thereof "September 30, 1983".

(c)(1) Subsection (a) of section 312c of such title is amended by striking out "$4,000 for each nuclear service year beginning after September 30, 1975, and ending before October 1, 1981" and inserting in lieu thereof "$5,000 for each nuclear service year ending before October 1, 1983".

(2) Subsection (b) of such section is amended by striking out "$2,400 for each nuclear service year beginning after September 30, 1978, and ending before October 1, 1981" and inserting in lieu thereof "$3,000 for each nuclear service year ending before October 1, 1983".

(3) Subsection (e) of such section is amended to read as follows:

"(e) For the purposes of this section, a 'nuclear service year' is any fiscal year beginning before October 1, 1983.".

(d) Section 301(b) of such title is amended—

(1) by inserting "(1)" after "(b)";

(2) by inserting "or, in the case of hazardous duty described in clause (2) of such subsection, an officer" after "a member"; and

(3) by adding at the end of such subsection the following new paragraph:

"(2) For the performance of the hazardous duty described in clause (2) of subsection (a) of this section, an enlisted member is entitled to monthly incentive pay as follows:

Pay grade	Years of service computed under section 205						
	2 or less	Over 2	Over 3	Over 4	Over 6	Over 8	Over 10
E–9	$131	$131	$131	$131	$131	$131	$131
E–8	131	131	131	131	131	131	131
E–7	100	106	106	106	113	119	131
E–6	88	94	94	100	106	113	119
E–5	75	88	88	100	100	106	113
E–4	69	81	81	88	94	100	100
E–3	69	75	75	75	75	75	75
E–2	63	75	75	75	75	75	75

"Pay grade	Years of service computed under section 205						
	2 or less	Over 2	Over 3	Over 4	Over 6	Over 8	Over 10
E–1	63	69	69	69	69	69	69
E–4 under 4 months	63						

"Pay grade	Years of service computed under section 205						
	Over 12	Over 14	Over 16	Over 18	Over 22	Over 26	Over 30
E–9	$131	$131	$131	$131	$131	$131	$131
E–8	131	131	131	131	131	131	131
E–7	131	131	131	131	131	131	131
E–6	119	125	125	125	125	125	125
E–5	119	119	119	119	119	119	119
E–4	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
E–3	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
E–2	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
E–1	69	69	69	69	69	69	69".

INCENTIVES FOR ENLISTED MEMBERS TO EXTEND TOURS OF DUTY OVERSEAS

SEC. 5. (a)(1) Chapter 5 of title 37, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

"§ 314. Special pay: qualified enlisted members extending duty at designated locations overseas

"(a) Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary concerned, an enlisted member of an armed force who—

"(1) is entitled to basic pay;

"(2) has a specialty that is designated by the Secretary concerned for the purposes of this section;

"(3) has completed a tour of duty (as defined in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secre-

tary concerned) at a location outside the forty-eight contiguous States and the District of Columbia that is designated by the Secretary concerned for the purposes of this section; and

"(4) at the end of that tour of duty executes an agreement to extend that tour for a period of not less than one year;

is entitled, upon acceptance of the agreement providing for such extension by the Secretary concerned, to special pay for duty performed during the period of the extension at a rate of not more than $50 per month, as prescribed by the Secretary concerned.

"(b) A member who elects to receive rest and recuperative absence or transportation at Government expense, or any combination thereof, under section 705 of title 10 is not entitled to the special pay authorized by this section for the period of extension of duty for which the rest and recuperative absence or transportation is authorized.".

(2) The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new item:

"314. Special pay: qualified enlisted members extending duty at designated locations overseas.".

(b)(1) Chapter 40 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

"§ 705. Rest and recuperative absence for qualified enlisted members extending duty at designated locations overseas

"(a) Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary concerned, an enlisted member of an armed force who—

"(1) is entitled to basic pay;

"(2) has a specialty that is designated by the Secretary concerned for the purposes of this section;

"(3) has completed a tour of duty (as defined in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary concerned) at a location outside the forty-eight contiguous States and the District of Columbia that is designated by the Secretary concerned for the purposes of this section; and

"(4) at the end of that tour of duty executes an agreement to extend that tour for a period of not less than one year;

may, in lieu of receiving special pay under section 314 of title 37 for duty performed during such extension of duty, elect to receive one of the benefits specified in subsection (b). Receipt of any such benefit is in addition to any other leave or transportation to which the member may be entitled.

"(b) The benefits authorized by subsection (a) are—

"(1) a period of rest and recuperative absence for not more than thirty days;

"(2) a period of rest and recuperative absence for not more than fifteen days and round-trip transportation at Government expense from the location of the extended tour of duty to the nearest port in the forty-eight contiguous States and return; or

"(3) round-trip transportation at Government expense of the member and the member's dependents from the location of the extended tour of duty to the nearest port in the forty-eight contiguous States and return.".

(2) The table of sections at the beginning of such section is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new item:

"705. Rest and recuperative absence for qualified enlisted members extending duty at designated locations overseas.".

BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR QUARTERS IN LIEU OF ASSIGNED QUARTERS FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS

SEC. 6. (a) The second sentence of subsection (b) of section 403 of title 37, United States Code, is amended by striking out "commissioned officer" and "O–3" and inserting in lieu thereof "member" and "E–6", respectively.

(b) Subsection (c) of such section is amended to read as follows:

"(c)(1) A member of a uniformed service without dependents is not entitled to a basic allowance for quarters

while he is on field duty unless his commanding officer certifies that the member was necessarily required to procure quarters at his expense.

"(2) A member of a uniformed service without dependents who is in a pay grade below pay grade E–7 is not entitled to a basic allowance for quarters while he is on sea duty. A member of a uniformed service without dependents who is in a pay grade above E–6 and who is on sea duty is not entitled to a basic allowance for quarters while the unit to which he is assigned is deployed for a period in excess of ninety days.

"(3) For the purposes of this subsection, duty for a period of less than three months is not considered to be field duty or sea duty.".

PER DIEM ALLOWANCE FOR MEMBERS TRAVELING ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS

SEC. 7. Section 404(d) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by striking out "$35" and "$50" and inserting in lieu thereof "$50" and "$75", respectively.

HOUSE TRAILERS AND MOBILE HOMES

SEC. 8. (a)(1) Section 409 of title 37, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"§ 409. Travel and transportation allowances: house trailers and mobile homes

"(a)(1) A member, or, in the case of a member's death, the member's dependent who would otherwise be entitled to transportation of baggage and household effects under section 406 of this title, may be provided transportation of a house trailer or mobile home dwelling within the continental United States, within Alaska, or between the continental United States and Alaska (or reimbursement for such transportation), if the house trailer or mobile home dwelling is intended for use as a residence by such member or dependent. Such transportation may be limited to such modes and maximum costs as may be prescribed by regulations under subsection (d) of this section.

"(2) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, transportation of a house trailer or mobile home dwelling under paragraph (1) of this subsection is in place of the transportation of baggage and household effects the member or member's dependent would otherwise be entitled to have provided.

"(3) The cost of transportation of a house trailer or mobile home dwelling under paragraph (1) of this subsection may not be more than the total cost of packing, pick-up, line-haul or drayage, delivery, and unpacking baggage and household effects of the member or dependent having the maximum

weight authorized for the member or dependent under regulations prescribed by the Secretary concerned.

"(4) A house trailer or mobile home dwelling in transit under this section may be stored up to one hundred and eighty days in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary concerned.

"(b) Any payment authorized by this section may be made in advance of the transportation concerned.

"(c) A member or member's dependent who is entitled to the transportation of baggage and household effects from a place inside the continental United States or Alaska to a place outside the continental United States or Alaska, or from a place outside the continental United States or Alaska to a place inside the continental United States or Alaska, may be provided the transportation of a house trailer or mobile home dwelling under this section, but the total cost to the Government of the transportation of baggage and household effects and the transport of a house trailer or mobile home dwelling may not exceed the cost of transporting baggage and household effects of the member or dependent having the maximum weight authorized for the member or dependent under regulations prescribed by the Secretary concerned.

"(d) The Secretaries concerned shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section.

"(e) In this section, 'continental United States' means the forty-eight contiguous States and the District of Columbia.".

(2) The item relating to section 409 in the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 7 of such title is amended to read as follows:

"409. Travel and transportation allowances: house trailers and mobile homes.".

(b) Section 403 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(k) Parking facilities (including utility connections) provided members of the uniformed services for house trailers and mobile homes not owned by the Government shall not be considered to be quarters for the purposes of this section or any other provision of law. Any fee established by the Government for the use of such a facility shall be established in an amount sufficient to cover the cost of maintenance, services, and utilities and to amortize the cost of construction of the facility over the fifteen-year period beginning with the completion of such construction.".

FAMILY SEPARATION ALLOWANCE FOR JUNIOR ENLISTED MEMBERS

SEC. 9. Section 427(b) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by striking out "(other than a member in pay grade E–1, E–2, E–3, or E–4 (four years' or less service))".

EXPENSES INCURRED IN OBTAINING QUARTERS BY CERTAIN MEMBERS ON SEA DUTY WHO ARE DEPRIVED OF THEIR QUARTERS ABOARD SHIP

SEC. 10. (a) Subsection (b) of section 7572 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking out "officer of the naval service" and inserting in lieu thereof "member";

(2) by striking out ", and who is not entitled to basic allowance for quarters,";

(3) by striking out "an officer of his grade" and inserting in lieu thereof "a member of the same grade without dependents"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new sentence: "A member entitled to basic allowance for quarters may not be reimbursed for expenses under this section if the member is deprived of his quarters aboard ship at a location at which the member can reside with the dependents upon whom the entitlement to such allowance is based.".

(b) Section 3(a) of the Act of August 10, 1956 (70A Stat. 619; 33 U.S.C. 857a(a)), is amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

"(14) Section 7572(b), Quarters: accommodations in place of for members on sea duty.".

PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS OF MARINE CORPS OFFICER CANDIDATE PROGRAMS

SEC. 11. (a) Section 209 of title 37, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:

"(d) Except when on active duty, a member enrolled in a Marine Corps officer candidate program which requires a baccalaureate degree as a prerequisite to being commissioned as a regular or reserve officer and who is not enrolled in a program or an academy established under chapter 103, 403, 603, or 903 of title 10 may be paid a subsistence allowance at the same rate as that prescribed by subsection (a) of this section.".

(b) The Act entitled "An Act to provide subsistence allowances for members of the Marine Corps officer candidate programs", approved November 24, 1971 (37 U.S.C. 209 note), is repealed.

EFFECTIVE DATES

SEC. 12. (a) The amendments made by section 2 shall only apply to enlistments and reenlistments made after September 30, 1980.

(b) Agreements may not be entered into under section 301b of title 37, United States Code, as added by section 3, before October 1, 1980.

(c)(1) The amendments made by section 4(a)(1) shall apply only with respect to active-duty agreements under section 312 of title 37, United States Code, executed after September 30, 1980.

(2) The amendment made by section 4(b)(1) shall apply only with respect to training completed after September 30, 1980.

(3) The amendments made by sections 4(a)(2), 4(b)(2), and 4(c) shall take effect on October 1, 1980.

(4) The amendments made by section 4(d) shall apply only to payment of monthly incentive pay for months after September 1980.

(d) Section 314 of title 37, United States Code, as added by section 5(a), shall take effect on October 1, 1980, and shall apply to periods of extended duty overseas beginning before, on, or after such date, but no payment may be made under such section for any month before October 1980. Section 705 of title 10, United States Code, as added by section 5(b), shall take effect on October 1, 1980, and shall apply only with respect to periods of extended duty overseas beginning after September 30, 1980.

(e) The amendments made by section 6 shall only apply to payment of basic allowance for quarters for months after September 1980.

(f) The amendments made by section 7 shall only apply to travel and transportation expenses incurred after September 30, 1980.

(g) The amendments made by section 8(a) shall only apply to transportation of house trailers and mobile home dwellings which is completed after September 30, 1980.

(h) The amendment made by section 8(b) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(i) The amendments made by sections 9, 10, and 11 shall take effect on October 1, 1980.

STATEMENT OF HON. DONALD J. MITCHELL, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM NEW YORK

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Mitchell.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection.

Mr. MITCHELL. I want to express my strong support for H.R. 7626.

I would like to supplement the chairman's statement by providing some more detailed information as to several other items contained in the bill.

One is the per diem increase.

The current law authorizes per diem at the rate of $35 per day with the provision that if that amount is less than the actual and necessary expenses required the reimbursement may be authorized up to $50 per day. In the new bill we use the normal per diem rate of $50 per day and the unusual rate of $75 per day, which just reflects inflationary changes.

Another is bonuses for selected enlisted personnel who extend their overseas tours.

The bonus would provide an additional $50 a month for each month served on an extension.

Third, trailer parking pads.

At present, military personnel with mobile homes who occupy trailer pads on Government installations pay a rental fee that covers utilities, maintenance, and an amortized share of the cost of construction.

This bill would authorize continuation of the present practice in spite of a court decision. In effect, it covers the cost to the Government of building and maintaining those facilities.

Fourth, subsistance allowances for members of Marine Corps officer candidate program.

This program is the equivalent of the ROTC program of the other services. These officer candidates have, by a series of temporary laws, been authorized the same $100 per month subsistence allowance that is provided for ROTC participants.

This bill would provide permanent authority for providing that subsistence allowance.

Fifth, optional BAQ for persons in pay grades E–7 and above.

At the present time an officer in the grade of major or lieutenant commander, or above, without dependents for whom Government quarters are available may elect not to occupy those quarters and instead elect to receive the basic allowance for quarters appropriate to his grade.

Our bill will extend this privilege to all personnel without dependents, both officers and enlisted, who are in pay grade E–7 or above.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion I want to again state my strong support for all of the provisions of this bill, as well as those in the Nunn-Warner amendment. It is high time that we begin to provide in a more realistic manner for the economic wants and needs of those who elect to devote themslves to a career in the Armed Forces.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. I was just going to comment on the subcommittee's recommendation and point out that I thoroughly agree with that recommendation.

The vote is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alabama. Those in favor will vote aye.

[Chorus of "ayes."]

The CHAIRMAN. Those opposed will vote no.

[No response.]

The CHAIRMAN. The ayes have it, and the resolution is agreed to.

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